

# Billion Bushel Wheat Yield Is Indicated

May Report Forecasts Winter Crop of 572,539,000 Bushels

Secretary Houston Praises Farmers Food Outlook Good, but Cities Are Urged to Aid Producers

WASHINGTON, May 8.—Hope for the billion-bushel wheat crop, for which the government is striving this year, was strengthened today by the Department of Agriculture's May crop report forecasting a production of 572,539,000 bushels of winter wheat.

Secretary Houston in a statement to-night said there was every reason to anticipate increased farm yields this year over the record production of last year.

He added, however, that the promise did not warrant relaxed efforts for greater production and for greater conservation, and called upon the people of towns and cities to realize that the farmer cannot work miracles, and lend him the assistance needed at harvest time.

Wheat Making Good Progress Realization of a winter crop as large as that forecast would place this year's harvest of that grain as the third largest ever gathered. The estimate of 12,500,000 bushels more than forecast in April from conditions then existing and 154,400,000 bushels more than the crop harvested last summer. On conditions from now until harvest time will depend whether the crop will be larger or smaller than today's forecast based on conditions May 1.

In the case of wheat, the estimate is based on the generally favorable weather for wheat development continued, and the crop has made excellent progress in all principal producing areas. Efforts have been made to stimulate production of spring wheat, and preliminary reports indicate an increase in the acreage of that crop, which may be sufficient under good growing conditions to bring the total wheat production this year well toward the billion bushel mark. No official report has yet been made on the acreage of spring wheat. The first announcement will be made in June. Reports indicate the seed already planted has germinated well generally.

Record Rye Production Rye production will be a record, the forecast of the crop being 82,620,000 bushels, or 22,000,000 bushels more than last year's crop. "With favorable weather and with a supplement of man power from the towns and cities to help in farm tasks of particular strain, especially in harvesting," said Mr. Houston's statement, "it is every reason to believe that increased yields of farm products this year over the record production last year, but the promise for the future depends on the weather and the efforts of the farmer to produce more and more on this country."

Praises the Farmers. "The farmers last year responded generously to the patriotic appeal of the President, the Department of Agriculture, the state colleges of agriculture and other public agencies by planting and harvesting the largest acreage in crops on record in this country. Since last July the department, in cooperation with the agricultural colleges and other state and local organizations, has labored unceasingly to maintain and, if possible, to increase in 1918 the record acreage of 1917, with necessary adjustments especially to provide for larger supplies of food and feed products, not only for our own population but for the Allies in Europe, who will depend more and more on this country."

Cities Must Aid Farmers. "Reports indicate that in order to plant larger acreages with less help than ever before farmers are working from early dawn until black darkness, utilizing to the fullest capacity all their man power, family power, horse power and machinery and setting an example of extraordinary exertion and efficiency which might well be followed in other essential industries. The work of the farmers and of the agricultural agencies is not spectacular and does not catch the public eye, but it is nevertheless unceasing and effective and is as vitally important as any other service rendered in the nation in this emergency."

# Indian Lands to Be Turned Into Vast Wheat Fields

New York Capitalists Will Finance Plan to Utilize Reservations in Effort to Increase American Production of Bread Cereal

Hundreds of thousands of acres of rich Indian lands in the Northwest are to be made into wheat fields that will add millions of bushels to next year's crop through a project now under negotiation between the Department of the Interior, large Western agricultural interests and leading New York banking institutions.

Immediately upon settlement of details of the transaction preliminary work will be started on 100,000 acres in the Shoshone and other reservations. It is understood that the intention is to prepare the soil of this vast tract for planting the coming fall with winter wheat. As soon as possible thereafter another hundred thousand acres will be brought under cultivation, perhaps in time for planting to spring wheat early in 1919. If the project is carried through successfully it probably will prove to be only the beginning of a gigantic development to insure an adequate supply of the principal bread grain.

New York Capital Interested. The plan originated with Thomas D. Campbell, of Los Angeles, one of the most successful wheat growers in the world, with many thousands of acres under development in California, North Dakota and other parts of the West. Mr. Campbell, it is understood, proposed to the Department of the Interior that he be permitted to plant 100,000 acres of Indian lands in the Northwest to wheat as a war measure. The idea met with enthusiastic interest, but it was officially suggested that instead of confining it to

one of the most serious problems to be solved is that of procuring an adequate supply of labor, but as one way of meeting this arrangements have been made, or are under consideration, to utilize the services of the Indians on the reservations. The operation will, moreover, be conducted like a great manufacturing business, and every possible labor-saving device and all economies inherent in large scale production will be availed of.

The lands to be farmed are among the richest in the West, and it is expected an average yield of at least fifteen bushels an acre will be obtained the first year. That would mean a production of 3,000,000 bushels. Full details of the project are not yet available, but it is said that, in consideration of the development of the land, the government will agree to permit its use for a term of years, and of course, add to the value of the land, the government would thus reap an indirect profit in addition to stimulating the production of wheat.

Forecast by States Condition and forecast of production of winter wheat by principal states follow: Ohio—conditions—83; forecast, 33,422,000 bushels. Indiana—96 and 47,771,000. Illinois—92 and 44,120,000. Missouri—95 and 45,068,000. Nebraska—82 and 47,884,000. Kansas—84 and 96,104,000. Oklahoma—78 and 29,531,000.

Large Acreage Abandoned. In a statement on winter wheat the Department of Agriculture said: "The abandonment of acreage, 13.7 per cent, is heavier than the average of 10.9 per cent for ten years, and heavier than had been generally anticipated, although it followed logically a very low condition last December (5,778,000) 2,749,000, or nearly one-half, is debited to Kansas. The four states of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas contribute nearly four-fifths of the total acreage abandoned."

"In percentage abandonment the heaviest are 45 per cent in Texas and Wisconsin, 35 in New Mexico, 29 in Kansas, 24 in Michigan, 20 in North Dakota and Oklahoma and 15 in New York. Although winter killing is the usual cause of abandonment, an important cause this year is the unusual dry weather last autumn and this spring, which prevented growth after a weak germination."

"The acreage remaining improved during April, which was generally cold and moist, a condition favorable to wheat. The condition on May 1 for the United States, 86.4 per cent, compares with a ten-year average of 85.7 per cent. A month ago the condition of the plant was about 6 per cent below the average. The higher condition figure for the United States on May 1 is due partly to the elimination of the abandoned acreage this month in obtaining the average for the United States."

Says Tammany Leaders Best Social Workers The best and more versatile social workers of them all is the Tammany Hall district leader, according to Charles A. Beard, director of Municipal Research, who spoke at the ninth annual conference of Charities and Corrections at the Russell Sage Foundation Building on "Public Administration and Social Work."

# Shipping Board Asks Congress for \$2,223,835,000

Over Half of This Amount Goes to Building of Ships Alone

New Docks Needed Newark's Cost Plus Contracts Changed to Flat Price to Speed Up Output

WASHINGTON, May 8.—Estimates submitted to Congress to-day by the Shipping Board call for an appropriation of \$2,223,835,000. For the cost of construction of ships authorized by the urgent deficiency bill of 1917 the board has requested an appropriation of \$1,386,100,000, and for the purchasing and requisitioning of plants and material \$652,000,000.

Other estimates include: For acquisition or establishment of plants for shipbuilding, \$5,000,000. For acquisition of lands and buildings, \$50,000,000. For the operation of all ships proposed in the estimates, \$500,000,000. \$35,000,000 for concrete construction of concrete ships and for construction of concrete ships, \$35,000,000. For recruiting and instructing officers for American vessels, \$10,250,000. For the cost of development of port facilities, \$25,000,000. For construction or completing of ships in shipyards and foreign countries, \$55,000,000.

Chairman Hurley of the Shipping Board, told the committee \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000 is needed for drydocks on the Atlantic coast. Two are necessary at Weehawken, N. J., and others at New York and Boston, he said. Mr. Hurley suggested that, proposed appropriation for deepening a channel in Los Angeles harbor be increased from \$100,000 to \$204,000.

Change of Newark Contract The cost-plus contracts of the Submarine Boat Company, at Newark, N. J., for construction of 180 steel ships of 5,000 tons each, have been cancelled, Charles M. Schwab, production director of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, to-day told the Senate Commerce Committee. The plan of the Federal Shipbuilding Company in Kearny, N. J., drove 2,919 three-quarter inch button-head rivets in a ship's floor in eight hours, and John Corigan, assisted by three men, drove 3,415 three-quarter inch rivets in a plate floor on skids in nine hours at the plant of the Detroit Shipbuilding Company in Wyandotte, Mich. Corigan's record is the best ever made in an American yard.

Nine-Hour Riveting Record Broken in London Plant, Where It Is Put at 4,267 LONDON, May 8.—The record made by Charles Schock, who at Baltimore drove in 2,720 rivets in nine hours, has been beaten in London. The workmen of Fraser & Fraser set out to beat Schock's record. The effort was made yesterday by a selected squad of riveters under Robert Farrant, aged thirty-one. He is one of a family of eighteen, and his father, aged sixty-seven, is a riveter in the same line. He hammered in 4,267 rivets in nine hours, an average of slightly less than 475 an hour, or one rivet every seven and a half seconds. This is claimed to be a world's record.

2,805 Rivets Is Record At Fore River Plant QUINCY, Mass., May 8.—While anxious to give Robert F. Farrant, a British riveter, full credit in breaking the world's record, officials of the Fore River plant called attention to the fact that Charles Mulham on April 30 took the American record from Charles Schock, of Baltimore. In a nine-hour stretch Schock drove 2,720 rivets. In the same period of time Mulham drove 2,805, and he has since stated that he expected to do even better than that.

Calumet River Riveter Second in American Race CHICAGO, May 8.—In the international contest among shipbuilders at riveting the record of William Harte, at the Calumet River plant, near Chicago, stands second in the United States only to that of John Corigan, of Detroit, who drove 3,415.

# U. S. Makes New Plans For Financing Allies

WASHINGTON, May 8.—A report on the future financial needs of the Allies was presented to the Treasury to-day by Oscar T. Crosby, president and American member of the Inter-Allied Council on Finance and Purchases, on his return from Europe, where he has been since last September.

Mr. Crosby, who is still Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, will assist in working out a plan of extending greater credits direct to France, Italy and other co-belligerents, instead of through Great Britain. This will relieve Great Britain of borrowing from the United States approximately the sums required for British loans to the Allies.

The financial branch of the council was organized in Paris about five months ago, and consists of representatives of the principal allied governments. It has acted as a board of priority for American loans.

Bernstorff's Code To Direct Sabotage In U. S. Deciphered Papers Seized on Schmidt Turned Over to the Government

ALBANY, May 8.—The von Bernstorff code, the means of communication employed by the German Foreign Office to keep in touch with Count Johann von Bernstorff, former ambassador to this country, while he was directing sabotage and other German activities in the United States, has been deciphered, reconstructed and turned over to the Federal government by Attorney General Merton E. Lewis, it was announced to-day.

This was the code which Hugo Schmidt, the alleged paymaster in this country of the German Foreign Office, attempted to destroy by burning the original copy in the furnace at a German club in New York City. According to the code, it was stated at the office of the Attorney General, the words "a boy was born yesterday, both well," meant "the remittance of German war loan bonds mentioned in your wireless arrived safely."

Code Name Was "Sidney Pickford" Hugo Schmidt's code name was "Sidney Pickford," Bolo Pacha was known as "St. Regis," Captain Boyd Ed as "Richard Houston" and Von Papen as "Thomas Hoggson." The German Foreign Office was coded as "William Foxley." Copper and wool, large quantities of which were obtained for shipment into Germany through neutral countries, were coded as "Yadkin bonds" and "Southern Norfolk bonds," respectively.

Fragmentary evidence of the code which was discovered in the office of Schmidt enabled Alfred L. Becker, Deputy Attorney General, to reconstruct the puzzling means of communication devised by the crafty German Foreign Office. Thousands of wireless messages in Schmidt's files contained the body and key to this code. From these papers, which had not been destroyed, as duplicates were in existence at the wireless station at Sayville and Tuckerton, the Attorney General largely built up and deciphered the code.

When Schmidt became entangled in the Attorney General's investigation of the activities of Paul Bolo Pacha, who was recently executed by the French government for treason, he immediately went to a German club and is said to have tossed the original papers containing the code into the furnace. Attorney General Lewis is said, however, to have drawn this fact from Schmidt, but also enough other information about the code to facilitate its reconstruction.

In addition to the code the Attorney General has also secured a list of names of persons who were in contact with Schmidt, and a list of names of persons who were in contact with the German Foreign Office.

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General's office has furnished the Federal government with a complete index of names and subjects involved in the investigation of the Hugo Schmidt-Deutsche Bank negotiations, a summary of the inquiry into the activities of German agents relative to the wool trade and a special report on remittances by the German Foreign Office to South American countries to defray the expense of German propaganda.

Court Martial Named To Try Gen. Donnelly Three Major Generals and Five Brigadiers to Sit at Governor's Island

WASHINGTON, May 8.—A general court martial, composed of three major generals and five brigadier generals, was named to-day to assemble at Governor's Island, New York, to-morrow, for the "trial of such persons as may be brought before it."

The court is headed by Major General J. Franklin Bell, and with the exception of General Bell and Brigadier General William A. Mann, commanding the Eastern Department, is composed of retired officers. They are Major General William H. Carter and Hugh L. Scott, Brigadier Generals Theodore A. Bingham, Montgomery M. Macomb, James Parker and William T. Russell. Major Dudley V. Sutherland is appointed judge advocate of the court and Major Jackson A. Dykman assistant to the judge advocate.

for the "trial of such persons as may be brought before it." It is assumed the case that necessitated the creation of the court is that of Brigadier General Arthur B. Donnelly, of the Missouri National Guard, charged with conduct unbecoming an officer. General Donnelly has been detained at Governor's Island following the filing of charges that he participated in a card game with junior officers in which money was passed and that he had knowledge of the presence of liquor on the person of soldiers in his command. The court is headed by Major General J. Franklin Bell, and with the exception of General Bell and Brigadier General William A. Mann, commanding the Eastern Department, is composed of retired officers. They are Major General William H. Carter and Hugh L. Scott, Brigadier Generals Theodore A. Bingham, Montgomery M. Macomb, James Parker and William T. Russell. Major Dudley V. Sutherland is appointed judge advocate of the court and Major Jackson A. Dykman assistant to the judge advocate.

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